

JOURNAL

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BPA HAS REDUCED WHOLESALE POWER RATES – FOR NOW

BPA's wholesale power rate for public utilities went down approximately 4 percent on April 1 as expected, but could return to the pre-April level in the fall.

"We are pleased that power rates have decreased for the second six months of this five-year rate period," said BPA Administrator Steve Wright. "However, lingering drought effects and lower market prices for our surplus power could push rates up in the fall."

The reduced rate reflects lower prices for power needed to supply the needs of BPA's utility and industrial customers over the next six months. BPA makes such adjustments periodically in response to changing market and fiscal conditions. Each utility will decide whether a retail rate change is appropriate.

Wright said that this year BPA is not realizing the revenues from surplus power sales that were forecast last June. "Mostly as a result of this," Wright said, "we expect to lose money for the second year in a row."

Because water conditions this year are good, BPA expects to carry out fish operations as required under the Endangered Species Act. The agency also plans to stay on schedule on improvements to the regional transmission grid.

Wright issued a letter to BPA customers and citizens of the Northwest, including *Journal* recipients,

outlining the above issues. The letter can be viewed at: http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/kc/media/docs/letter_April2002.pdf.

RTO WEST MAKES MILESTONE

RTO West passed a major milestone on March 29. On that date, BPA and nine other Northwest utilities

asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to find that RTO West as now outlined meets FERC's minimum characteristics and functions for a regional transmission organization.

RTO West would be an independent non-profit corporation that would operate the region's electric transmission lines as a common carrier of wholesale electricity.

SCREAM GREEN!

BPA's Earth Day Expo, April 28 at the Oregon Zoo, Portland, Ore., is shaping up to be a really big show. The celebration has attracted sponsors and donors from

all over the region including the Department of Energy's Region 10 office in Seattle, the Energy Trust of Oregon and the U.S. Forest Service.

The day kicks off with an eight-kilometer "Race to Stop Global Warming," outside the zoo led by three-time New York City Marathon winner Alberto Salazar. A "Procession of the Species" – people in costumes – will celebrate the earth in downtown Portland. Inside the zoo, more than 50 exhibitors will offer everything from face painting for kids to information on ENERGY STAR® appliances for their parents.



It's a day of fun and environmental education for all – BPA's Earth Day celebration April 28 at the Oregon Zoo in Portland.





FISH FUNDING ANNOUNCED FOR STATES, TRIBES

Washington Gov. Gary Locke and BPA Administrator Steve Wright met in Yakima, Wash., to announce \$32 million in funding this year for fish and wildlife efforts in eastern Washington and Oregon in partnership with BPA. The state of Washington and Yakama and Umatilla tribes will receive \$18 million this year to fund 14 new projects and 25 projects already under way.

The state of Oregon and the Warm Springs and Umatilla tribes will receive over \$14 million to fund 12 new and 34 existing projects. The projects are among those that support BPA's obligations for fish and wildlife mitigation and recovery efforts. They will improve water quality and quantity, assist fish migration in tributaries and enhance fish habitat.

Idaho will receive \$15.1 million and Montana \$6.2 million from BPA this year to support resident fish and wildlife recovery efforts.

SNAKE SPILL STARTS

Spill for wild and hatchery fish started at Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River on April 3.

With spill, water is released from behind dams through spillways so that the fish do not go through powerhouse turbines. The water releases help increase the survival of anadromous (ocean going) juvenile fish, such as salmon, as they migrate downstream to the ocean. The main stem Columbia spill was scheduled to begin April 10.

INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT AWARDED

Energy Delivery Services, Inc., of North Carolina won a competitive contract to build 155 miles of BPA's top-priority 500-kilovolt transmission projects. The initial contract ceiling is just over \$182 million. The company, a subsidiary of Duke Energy, will furnish all materials, including insulators, conductor and lattice steel under contracts awarded to preferred suppliers by BPA. If all projects of BPA's Transmission Infrastructure Program are approved, the contract has the potential to build up to 800 miles of transmission line in various voltages.

Having a single contractor ready to plan for and manage physical resources and construction crews will streamline construction and ensure an adequate number of skilled workers are available. The contractor's profit will be tied to its performance in meeting schedules, controlling costs, working safely and protecting the environment.

WANT TO INVEST IN A POWER LINE?

BPA is looking for parties interested in financing transmission infrastructure improvements in the Pacific Northwest. The deadline for statements of interest was set at April 15.

BPA has identified 20 projects needed in the next five years to relieve constraints, connect new generators, meet Canadian treaty obligations or improve reliability on its transmission grid. BPA is open to non-federal participation in 18 of these 20 projects. Non-federal participation could include ownership or ownership-like interests but BPA will retain responsibility for control, operation and maintenance of facilities. BPA has developed principles to address the interests of its customers, ratepayers and the federal government, and to assure equity to all interests.

SEATTLE SIGNS CONSERVATION CONTRACT

The Bonneville Power Administration and Seattle City Light have reached an agreement under which BPA will fund City Light energy conservation programs over the next two years, and City Light will reduce the amount of power it gets from BPA.

In effect, BPA is buying City Light's conservation output for the next two years for about \$28 million. That will enable the federal energy agency to reduce the amount of power it has to buy on the wholesale power market. At about \$20 per megawatt-hour, energy saved through conservation programs is cheaper than buying market power, which is now selling in the range of \$25-35 per megawatt-hour.

City Light will sell about 19 megawatts of energy efficiency to BPA through 2003, or enough energy to power about 14,000 homes in City Light's service territory.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

STATUS REPORTS


Cliffs Energy Project ROD – Klickitat Co., Wash.

BPA is analyzing whether to provide transmission integration services for a combustion turbine proposed by GNA Energy, LLC. The company would build the power plant, five miles of new natural gas line, and 700 feet of 230-kV transmission line to BPA's Harvalum Substation. Klickitat County issued a Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance in May 2001. A change in the project may require a supplement analysis and further public comment.

COB Energy Facility Interconnect EIS – Klamath Co., Ore.

Peoples Energy Resources Corp. has requested interconnection of its proposed 1,200-MW combustion turbine project at a site near Bonanza in Klamath Co., Ore. The project would require a new 500-kV transmission line to BPA's Captain Jack Substation. The project is subject to Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council certification. Scoping has closed.

Federal Columbia River Power System Implementation Plan – Regionwide

This federal draft plan for Columbia River Power System Operations in 2002-2006 would carry out biological opinions issued under the Endangered Species Act. See www.salmonrecovery.gov. 



Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan EIS – Regionwide

This EIS examines potential impacts of implementing any of the fish and wildlife policy directions being considered in regional processes. BPA received public comments on the draft EIS in summer 2001 (#0312); the final EIS is expected later this year.

Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kV Transmission Line (Eastern Washington Reinforcement) EIS – Wash.

This project would replace about 84 miles of 115-kV transmission line with a new, higher capacity 500-kV line. The proposed line would connect BPA's Bell Substation in Spokane to the Bureau of Reclamation's switchyard at Grand Coulee Dam. It would be located primarily on BPA existing right-of-way. Scoping closed Feb. 15.

Grande Ronde and Imnaha Spring Chinook Project EIS – Wallowa and Union Cos., Ore.

This project would build fish trapping, rearing and release facilities to help restore spring chinook in the Lostine and Imnaha rivers of northeast Oregon. Planned facilities would modify and supplement existing Lower Snake River Compensation Plan facilities. Scoping comments closed Jan. 31, 2002. A summary of the comments is available on request. Or see www.cfw.bpa.gov/cgibin/psa/nepa/summaries/granderonde. BPA is holding a meeting April 27 in Lostine on the project's status. A draft EIS will be available for comment later this year.  

Grizzly Generation Project EIS, Jefferson Co. – Ore.

Cogentrix proposes to build a 980-MW combined-cycle combustion turbine power plant and has requested interconnection at BPA's Grizzly Substation. An EIS will evaluate natural gas, water pipeline and transmission easements for facilities servicing the project. The U.S. Forest Service is the lead federal agency; BPA and the Bureau of Land Management are cooperating. Oregon EFSC is conducting a coordinated state siting process. Scoping closed in March.

Horse Heaven Wind Project EIS, Benton Co. – Wash.

BPA proposes to purchase up to 50 aMW from a 225-MW wind project proposed by Washington Winds Inc. The developer would build, own and operate the project and would build about 12 miles of transmission line to interconnect with BPA's transmission grid. Public comments were taken through Nov. 14, 2001.



Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Enhancement EA, Valley Co. – Idaho

This project seeks to recover the creek's depleted native summer chinook salmon population. It would include additional facilities at the McCall Fish Hatchery in McCall, Idaho, and acclimation facilities along Johnson Creek. Scoping concluded March 30, 2001. An EA will be available for public comment in fall 2002.

Kangley-Echo Lake Transmission Line Project EIS – King Co., Wash.

BPA proposes to build a 500-kV transmission line to connect an existing transmission line near Kangley to Echo Lake Substation. BPA's preferred alternative would run parallel to its existing Raver-Echo Lake 500-kV line. The project is needed to improve transmission system reliability and to meet requirements of the Columbia River Treaty with Canada. The comment period on the draft EIS (#0317) closed Sept. 4. A final EIS is expected in spring 2002.

Maiden Wind Farm EIS – Benton and Yakima Cos., Wash.

Washington Winds Inc., proposes to build and operate a wind project of up to 494 MW north of Prosser. BPA proposes to acquire and transmit up to 50 aMW, but will study the full electrical output of the project. The draft EIS is available. See www.cfw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/SUMMARIES/MaidenWindFarm.  

McNary-John Day 500-kV Line Project EIS – McNary to John Day Dams, Ore. and Wash.


BPA proposes to build about 79 miles of new 500-kV transmission line parallel to existing BPA lines between McNary and John Day Substations. The line would cross the Columbia River below McNary Dam, run parallel to the north side of the Columbia through Benton and Klickitat counties, and cross back into Oregon near John Day Dam. It is needed to integrate some of the many new generating projects considered for this area and to reinforce transmission reliability. Scoping closed on June 7, 2001. The draft EIS is available.





Mercer Ranch Generation Project EIS – Benton Co., Wash.

Washington EFSEC is conducting an environmental review of an 800-MW combined-cycle combustion turbine power plant proposed by Mercer Ranch Power, LLC, 11 miles west of Paterson, Wash. BPA would be required to build and operate a switchyard that would interconnect to the transmission grid. The project proponent has stopped all work on the environmental review of this project and it is indefinitely on hold. System studies will continue. See <http://www.efsec.wa.gov/mercerc.html>.



Mint Farm Generation Project – Longview, Wash.

BPA has decided to offer contract terms for integrating power from Mint Farm Generation's proposed 319-MW combined-cycle combustion turbine project near Longview, Wash. BPA would build and operate about a quarter mile of new 230-kV transmission line. A ROD was issued on Feb. 14, 2002. 

Plymouth Generating Facility EIS – Benton Co., Wash.

Plymouth Energy has requested interconnection of its proposed 306-MW combustion turbine project near Plymouth in Benton, Co., Wash. BPA is preparing a joint NEPA/SEPA EIS with Benton Co. Scoping is under way.  

Raymond-Cosmopolis 115-kV Transmission Line EA – Grays Harbor and Pacific Cos., Wash.

BPA proposes to rebuild an existing 115-kV transmission line between Raymond and Cosmopolis, roughly parallel to Hwy 101. Most of the 18-mile long line will remain in existing right-of-way. Scoping is underway. A preliminary EA will be available for public review in fall 2002.  

Salmon Creek EIS – Okanogan Co., Wash.

BPA proposes to fund a project to enhance fish habitat and fish passage, and to increase instream flows in 4.3 miles of lower Salmon Creek, a tributary of the Okanogan River. The project would rehabilitate the stream channel, revegetate stream banks and increase streamflows. Scoping closed in March.

New! Satsop Combustion Turbine ROD – Grays Harbor County, Wash.

Duke Energy requests integration of its 650-MW Satsop Combustion Turbine project near Elma, Wash. into the federal transmission grid. To supply natural gas to the facility, Williams Gas Pipeline proposes

MORE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

to construct a new gas pipeline. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is conducting an EA on the proposed gas pipeline. After FERC completes its EA on the gas pipeline, BPA can issue a ROD on the transmission interconnection, expected this spring.

Schultz-Hanford Area 500-kV Line Project EIS - near Ellensburg to near the Hanford Reservation, Wash.

BPA proposes to build a new 500-kV line from Schultz Substation to a new or existing substation near the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. The project would relieve constraints on several lines, provide more operational flexibility to meet endangered salmon obligations and maintain transmission capacity to import and export energy. Comments on the draft EIS closed in March. See www.efw.bpa.gov under environmental planning/analysis.


South Fork Flathead Watershed Cutthroat Trout Conservation Program - Flathead National Forest, Mont.

BPA proposes to fund a project to remove exotic trout species from selected lakes in the South and Middle forks of the Flathead drainage and replace them with genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout. A preliminary EA is expected to be available in April. Previously, this project was known as the Mountain Lakes Trout Restoration Project EA.


Starbuck Power Project EIS - Columbia & Walla Walla Cos., Wash.

BPA proposes to build about 16 miles of 500-kV transmission line to integrate the proposed 1,200-MW Starbuck combined-cycle combustion turbine to Lower Monumental Substation into the grid. Existing lines are near capacity. Washington EFSEC is the lead agency for environmental review of the generation project; BPA has the lead on integrating transmission. The project has been suspended for six months. See www.efsec.wa.gov/starbuck.html.


New! Summit Westward EIS - Columbia Co., Ore.

Westward Energy Company proposes a 520-MW natural gas-fired, combustion turbine facility in Columbia County near Clatskanie, Ore., and has requested interconnection to the federal grid. Oregon EFSC is the lead agency for the environmental review of the generation project; BPA has the lead on integrating transmission. 

Umatilla Generating Project EIS - Umatilla Co., Ore.

Umatilla Generating Co., LP, proposes to build a 550-MW combined-cycle combustion turbine. Umatilla Electric Cooperative would reconductor about 11 miles of transmission to 230 kV, and build about a half mile of new 230-kV line to BPA's McNary Substation, where BPA would integrate the power into the grid. The draft EIS comment period ended Oct. 15. A final EIS is available. See www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/summaries/Umatilla. 

Wallula-McNary Transmission Line Project EIS - Walla Walla Co., Wash., and Umatilla Co., Ore.

BPA proposes to build 34 miles of 500-kV transmission line from a 1,300 MW combined-cycle gas-fired combustion turbine proposed by Wallula Generation, LLC in Wallula, Wash., to McNary Substation in Oregon. BPA also proposes to construct and operate the Smiths Harbor Switchyard to interconnect the output into the transmission grid. BPA is working with Washington, EFSEC on environmental review. A DEIS was released to the public on Feb. 22, 2002. Comments on the proposal will be accepted until April 11. Public meetings were held on March 13 in Burbank, Wash., and March 14 in McNary, Ore. See www.efsec.wa.gov/wallula.html. 

Wanapa Energy Center Generation Proj. EIS - Umatilla Co.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have requested interconnection of the Wanapa Energy Center, a proposed 1,000-MW gas-fired combined-cycle combustion turbine project,

into the transmission grid. The project would be located on tribal trust land. The Bureau of Indian Affairs plans to prepare an EIS on the project and BPA has requested to be a cooperating agency. BIA held public meetings in October and November. A draft EIS is expected April 2002.

SUPPLEMENT ANALYSES

Vegetation Management EIS

Along Marion-Alvey #1. Eugene, Ore. (SA-27)

Watershed Management EIS

Methow River Fish Screen Project. Okanogan Co., Wash.

Wildlife Management Program EIS

Camas Prairie Acquisition, Anderson Ranch Dam Phase II. Camas and Elmore counties, Idaho (SA-20)

Avian Predation on Juvenile Salmonids in the Lower Columbia River Research Project EA Continued Research (SA-01)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Grande Ronde and Imnaha Spring Chinook Project EIS - Wallowa and Union Cos., Ore.

Public information meeting on project status: Former Geoff Hayword House, 64899 Granger Rd., Lostine, Ore., Noon, **April 27**.

McNary-John Day 500-kV Transmission Line EIS

Public Meetings on draft EIS: Hermiston Community Center, 415 South Highway 395, Hermiston, Ore., 4-7 p.m., **April 8**; Paterson School, 51409 West Prior Road, Paterson, Wash., 4-7 p.m., **April 9**; Roosevelt School, 615 Chinook Avenue, Roosevelt, Wash., 4-7 p.m., **April 10**.

Plymouth Energy Facility EIS

Public Scoping Meeting: Paterson School, 51409 West Prior Road, Paterson, Wash., 4-7 p.m., **April 9**.

Raymond-Cosmopolis 115-kV Transmission Line EA

Public Information Meetings: Cosmopolis Fire Hall, 111 D Street, Cosmopolis, Wash., 5-7:30 p.m., **April 17**; Pacific County PUD, 405 Duryea Street, Raymond, Wash., 5-7:30 p.m., **April 18**.

Summit Westward EIS

Public Information Meeting: Clatskanie High School, 471 SW Bel Air Drive, Clatskanie, Wash., 7:30 p.m., **April 18**.

Maiden Wind EIS

Public Meeting on draft EIS: Prosser Senior Citizen Center, 1231 Dudley Avenue, Prosser, Wash., 4-7 pm. **April 23**.

CLOSE OF COMMENT

Maiden Wind Farm - Benton and Yakima Cos., Wash., Draft EIS. May 15.

McNary-John Day 500-kV Line Project EIS - McNary to John Day Dams, Ore. and Wash.

Draft EIS. April 23.

Plymouth Generating Facility EIS - Benton, Co., Wash. Facility scoping. April 17.




Raymond-Cosmopolis 115-kV Transmission Line EA - Grays Harbor and Pacific Cos., Wash.

Scoping. May 10.

Wallula-McNary Transmission Line Project EIS - Walla Walla Co., Wash., and Umatilla Co., Ore.

Draft EIS. April 11.

If you have questions or comments, or to be added to the mailing list for any project, call (503) 230-3478 (Portland) or 1-800-622-4519.

 Indicates the close of comment deadline.  Indicates a public meeting is scheduled.  Indicates a document is available. To order copies of documents, call: 1-800-622-4520 or (503) 230-4413. Written comments may be sent to: BPA, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, OR 97212. E-mail address: comment@BPA.gov. BPA home page: <http://www.bpa.gov>. For details on BPA environmental reviews listed above, including site maps and documents issued to date, see <http://www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/Projects>. **Process Abbreviations:** DEIS-Draft Environmental Impact Statement, EA-Environmental Assessment, EFSEC-Energy Facility Site Evaluation Committee, EIS-Environmental Impact Statement, FONSI-Finding of No Significant Impact, NOI-Notice of Intent, ROD-Record of Decision, SA-Supplement Analysis.